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ABSTRACT

The book, designed as a textbook for introductory study of semantics within college-level linguistics, focuses on the study of meaning as it is systematically encoded in the vocabulary and grammar of natural languages. The term "semantics" is presumed here to include pragmatics. An introductory section explains fundamental theoretical and metalinguistic concepts, including terminology and basic theories of meaning. Three subsequent sections address in detail three different areas of semantics: lexical meaning (words as meaningful units, defining the meaning of words, and the structural approach to lexical semantics); sentence-meaning (meaningful and meaningless sentences, sentence-meaning and proposition content, and formalization of sentence-meaning); and utterance-meaning (speech acts and illocutionary force, text and discourse, context and co-text, and subjectivity of utterance). Contains a list of references for further reading and a substantial bibliography. Contents are also indexed. (MSE)

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